
 cap providing a fluid connection between said passage and one of said ports, the first and second end caps forming respective water-wettable joints with the filter medium.


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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 5 with:

 In some embodiments of the invention, a filter assembly may comprise a housing having an inlet and an outlet and a filter element that is integrity testable by the Diffusive Forward Flow Test or the Water Bubble Point Test, that is held in the housing and that comprises a filter medium having a central passage extending between first and second ends of the filter medium, the housing being formed from a plastics material that is steam sterilizable.


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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19 with:

 In some embodiments of the invention, a valve for a filter assembly may comprise an annular sleeve surrounding a passage of generally circular cross-section, movement of said sleeve in one sense opening said valve and movement of said sleeve in a sense opposite said one sense closing said valve.

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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 with:

 In some embodiments of the invention there is provided a valve that may comprise a part defining a cylindrical passage and a valve member movable between a first position in which the member sits in and seals against the circumference of the passage to close the valve and a second position in which the member is located out of the passage to open the valve.

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*IN THE CLAIMS:*

Replace the indicated claims with:

 1. (Twice Amended) A filter assembly comprising  
a plastics housing providing an inlet port and an outlet port, the material of the housing being such that the assembly can be sterilized by subjecting the interior of the housing to steam under pressure while the exterior of the housing is at atmospheric pressure without damaging the housing,  
a filter element held in the housing and comprising

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a filter medium of water wettable material having a central passage  
extending between first and second ends of the filter medium,

the first end of the filter medium being embedded in a first end cap of a  
plastics material at a first joint to close said passage and the second end of the filter  
medium being embedded in a second end cap of a plastics material at a second joint,  
wherein the characteristics of the filter medium at the joints are not materially changed,

said second end cap providing a fluid connection between said passage and  
one of said ports,

the first and second end caps forming respective water-wettable joints with  
the filter medium.

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